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# City of South Bend Newsletter

January 2005

## Letter from the Mayor

Dear Neighbors:

Last year was a busy year for South Bend. You can read about our many successes and new initiatives in my State of the City Address, which will be presented to the Common Council on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Copies will be available at the library or the Clerk's office or you can read the report online at [www.ci.south-bend.in.us](http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us).

As we move forward in 2005, there will be a major emphasis on protecting and improving our River, streams, and our fresh water supply. Some people believe that our drinking or fresh water comes from the river. It does not. It is ground water that is pumped from the aquifers that abound in our area as a result of the glaciers that once moved through Indiana.

South Bend Water Works is committed to providing the high quality water at one of the lowest rates per household in the State. We have the lowest rate among the top 5 largest cities in Indiana. Keeping the system safe and secure requires ongoing investment. We are implementing a comprehensive capital improvement plan which utilizes new technology in order to deliver this service effectively and efficiently. I have asked the Council to approve a rate increase to fund these measures. The average family of 4 household would pay approximately \$3 per month more.

This request will be reviewed by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

We have also formed a strategic partnership with St. Joseph County, Ivy Tech State College and the Towns of Roseland and Osceola to develop a



Storm Water Management Plan that is consistent with federal and state guidelines for protecting our rivers and

streams. South Bend is one of only 20 cities/areas out of 150 in Indiana that has submitted its Storm Water Management Plan. A significant portion of this plan will address public education. It encourages each of us to make a difference in protecting our environment by following relatively simple steps including proper disposal of household hazardous waste and pollution prevention for commercial or business entities. Included in this month's mailing is a Storm Water Quality Awareness survey that I encourage you to complete and return. This survey will help our Storm Water Management Team educate our community regarding the importance of environmental stewardship and provide information and resources for individuals and businesses to develop their own stewardship efforts.

2004 was a great year. I am looking forward to 2005 being even better. In

the coming months I look forward to reporting on many new and on-going projects representing continued growth and development for our city. South Bend is on the move! I encourage and invite you to be a part of the effort.

Happy New Year to All!

Mayor Steve



**Did you know?  
Snow Removal**



Snow removal is a team effort and you play an important role in keeping our sidewalks clear and safe. It is the responsibility of the owner or occupant of any premises on any city street to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalk within 24 hours after snow or ice has accumulated.

The City of South Bend Dept. of Code Enforcement helps keep our walkways clear by removing snow from sidewalks on all public bridges. Code also works with the Police Dept. to make sure abandoned vehicles are removed from city streets especially during the winter months. Abandoned vehicles are hazardous and obstruct snow removal crews from clearing streets for the safety of emergency vehicles and the general public. Please report abandoned vehicles to Police, 235-9201 or Code Enforcement at 235-9486.

**Visit the City of South Bend online at [www.ci.south-bend.in.us](http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us)**

## Margaret King Recognized with Public Service Award

The City of South Bend was pleased to join with the South Bend Heritage Foundation to honor Margaret B. King as the 2004 recipient of the F. Jay Nimitz Exemplary Public Service Award. Created in 1989, the award is presented to an individual in the community who has shown exemplary public service through long and varied volunteer activities.

Margaret King has shared her immense talents and time to help build our community in numerous ways over the years. In 1992 then Mayor Joe Kernan asked Margaret to head the fundraising campaign for the restoration of the Morris Performing Arts Center. Since then Margaret has worked tirelessly to return this historic facility to its original grandeur and to again provide South Bend with the premier cultural and entertainment venue in the region. Margaret also serves on the YWCA Board and is a member of the Junior League of South Bend, the Better Business Bureau, and the IUSB School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Margaret is a founding and current member of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, and she helped launch the Public Education Foundation for South Bend Schools for which she served as volunteer Executive Director for three years.

The Exemplary Public Service Award is a memorial to the legendary F. Jay Nimitz, a former US Congressman, long time President of the South Bend Redevelopment Commission, member of the South Bend Heritage Foundation, attorney and community preservationist.

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## Workers Get Cash Back

You may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)! The EITC is money for people who work but earn low incomes. Those who qualify, will owe less in taxes, and may get cash back. Find out if you qualify and file a federal tax return to receive your Earned Income Tax Credit.



### Who qualifies for the EITC?

The maximum amount of income you can earn and still get the credit has increased in 2004! To qualify for the credit for 2004, you must have a valid social security number that allows you to work, and both your earned income and adjusted gross income must be less than the following amounts.

### Income Guidelines:

- \$11,490 (Or \$12,490, if married & filing jointly) if you do not have a qualifying child
- \$30,338 (Or \$31,338, if married & filing jointly) if you have 1 qualifying child
- \$34,458 (Or \$35,458, if married & filing jointly) if you have 2 or more qualifying children

If you receive help preparing your taxes, be sure to ask your tax preparer if you qualify for the EITC. Pick up tax forms at the library or post office. Call 1-800-829-3676 for the free IRS Publication 596, "Earned Income Credit." Visit [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) for additional information and tax forms.

## Weed and Seed Premieres Original Video

The Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (PIT) Committee of the South Bend Weed & Seed Alliance, Inc. (SBWSA) has created a video to promote area Safe Havens where youth are provided with alternatives to negative influences they face. The video, titled "The Choice is Yours," is told from the perspective of youth participating in local Weed & Seed Safe Haven programs.



Safe Havens operate at six locations including St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes, Charles Black Recreation Center, Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Harrison Primary Center, La Casa de Amistad and the West Side Neighborhood Partnership Center.

The 13 minute Weed & Seed video will be used as an educational tool distributed to churches, schools, neighborhood organizations and Safe Havens throughout the service area which encompasses the St. Casimir, St. Adalbert and LaSalle Park neighborhoods. Groups, organizations or teachers who would like to view the video, "The Choice is Yours," please contact Mark Dollinger, Weed & Seed Coordinator, at 235-7619.

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Stephen J. Luecke invites you to attend his State of the City address to the community on Monday, January 24, 2005. Everyone is welcome! The Mayor will report on the great work that is being done in South Bend and plans for the coming year. The time and location of the address will be announced in January. Please look for the location and time in local media listings. You may also call the Mayor's Office at 235-9261 or visit [www.ci.south-bend.in.us](http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us) for further details.